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FLOOR DEBATE

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Workers' Compensation Claims Revolving Fund. Section 5 provides authorization for a warrant payment to the bill...to the bill's beneficiary. And Section 6 contains requests by state agencies seeking permission to write off uncollectible debts. That is the essence of the...of LB 1241, and then, Mr. President, do you want me to go to the committee amendments?

SENATOR CUDABACK: As stated, there are committee amendments. Senator Vrtiska, as Chairman of the committee, you're recognized to open on those amendments.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President. The committee amendments add several tort claims, add one miscellaneous claim, and deletes three others, and corrects the total fund amounts. The amendments would add 19 tort claims to Section 2 of the bill, each coming out of the Department of Road Operation Cash Fund, with a combined amount of \$3,070,020. The tort claims out of the cash fund now totals \$4,795,893.30. Miscellaneous claim number 03-699 against the Department of Health and Human Services, payable to Marsha Busse in the amount of \$9,006.74, was approved. The claim was originally in the disapproved bills, but the committee decided to allow it, and I'll talk to you more about that particular claim a little later on and an amendment that we have pending on that claim. Three miscellaneous claims were removed from the bill; removed for claims payable to the Combined Insurance Company of America for \$64,852; Cushman Incorporated, for \$170,182; and CC VII Operating LLC for \$10,487.92. These particular claims were involved...were involved with state warrants or checks payable to these companies for tax refunds that have either been lost or have expired before being cashed. Once the warrant has expired and is over for a certain amount...and it's over a certain amount, it must be approved by the Legislature. The committee took this action for the purpose of making a statement about the lax businesses practices these companies have carried out. And this is something that some of the members of this body may want to talk about, because our committee decided to delete these simply because some of these have been carried over for more than two years and it appeared, from the committee's perspective, that we need to discuss these and decide how you want to deal with them, because it's unconscionable that